

REMARKS

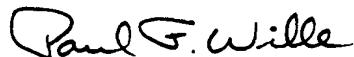
Reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1–5, 8, 9, and 13 were rejected as anticipated by Nelson. Nelson fails to disclose a structure and its function as recited in the claims. In particular, the anchor portion is between the sealing lip and the hinge connection to isolate the hinge from flexure of the sealing lip; see specification, page 4, lines 14–18. By contrast, as disclosed in the Nelson patent, hinge 16 is not isolated after installation and sealing lip 14 repeatedly flexes about hinge 16 during use. This leads to reduction in service life of the seal.

Claims 6, 7, 11, and 12 were rejected as unpatentable over Nelson in view of Mann. The Mann patent overcomes none of the deficiencies of the Nelson patent. Further, there is no basis for the combination, and none is asserted, other than applicant's claims; *In re Rouffet* 47 USPQ2d 1453 (Fed. Cir. 1998).

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1–13 are in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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